

# [How to Multiply the Increase of Corn of Any Kind / To Prevent the Smut in Wheat / To Prepare Seed to Sow on Poor and Sandy Lands]

**Date:** 1793/04/01

Publication Format  
Print

Type  
Agriculture

Ingredients  
saltpeter  
cow dung  
goat dung  
sheep dung  
pigeon dung  
water  
seed corn  
lime  
rain water  
river water  
salt  
saltpeter  
alum  
verdigris

Places  
Halifax  
Nova Scotia

**Source:** Halifax Gazette

**Institution:** Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Nova Scotia Newspapers on Microfilm | **Reference:** Microfilm Reels 8152, 8166

## Description

Vol. V, No. 214. Microfilm Reel 8166. The original source is unknown, but the instructions appear almost verbatim in the "Useful Recipes" section of *The New-York Magazine; Or, Literary Repository*, Vol. 2, p. 400 (1797) with the titular acknowledgement of "Extracts from a very valuable French Book, entitled *The Farmer's Pocket Dictionary*."

## Transcription

## RECIPES.

*How to Multiply the increase of Corn of any kind.*

“Take of the dungs of the cow, goat, sheep, and pidgeon, and of salt petre, each one pound; put them all into three gallons of water, and let them stand covered several days; strain the liquid through a sieve or coarse cloth, and let your seed corn moisten therein for eight hours; take it out and put it in a convenient corner of your granary; stir it well and often during several hours after.” This recipe is adapted to 160lbs. of corn.

*Anotheer.* -- “Put 20lbs of lime into a barrel, and pour on it ten gallons of rain or river water; then put 120lbs. of corn into a basket, and let it remain 8 hours : take it out and plunge it into an other vessel, in which there is a quantity of water, and wherein you have previously dissolved three pounds of common salt or salt-petre.”

*To prevent the [Smut](#) in Wheat.*--Moisten it well with a liquor composed of lime water, in which ashes, common salt, and pidgeon dung, have been infused several hours. A light solution of allum and verdigrese has also been used for a similar purpose.

*To prepare Seed to sow on poor and sandy lands.*  
Take 12 or 13 pounds of sheep’s dung, which you will boil, dregs and all, in a good deal of water. Dissolve three or four pounds of salt-petre, and infuse in this rickle for eight hours a bushel of new wheat, &c. dry it in an airy place, not much exposed to the sun : repeat this operation several times, and sow your grain but thinly.

The author of the book from whence these recipes are extracted, asserts. “that from experience, it is known that every grain of the prepared seed produces ears of more than 50 grains of corn in each.” He also informs, “that more than 60 stalks have been counted in one shoot” He continues--

First. “Grains thus prepared. starts sooner than when sown in the usual method.

Secondly. “The birds are not so fond of feeding on it.

Thirdly. “It grows thick and large, but ought to be sown thinner than usual.”

### Annotations

#### [smut](#)

Defined by the OED as "A fungous disease affecting various plants, esp. cereals, which are spoiled by the grain being wholly or partly converted into a blackish powder."

How to Multiply the Increase of Corn of Any Kind / To Prevent the Smut in Wheat / To Prepare Seed to Sow on Poor and Sandy Lands recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/76>